Private participation in Defence Production

709. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up joint task force alongwith the Confederation of Engineering Industry to increase private participation in defence production; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Government have already set up an Apex Body and three discipline wise Functional Groups in the Department of Defence Production and Supplies in order to optimise the utilisation of the Civil Sector capacity in Defence Production. The Civil Sector industry is represented on these fora through nominated representatives of the major national federations and associations of Industry including Confederation of Engineering Industry (CEI).

Streamlining of recruitment procedure for Defence Forces

710. SHRI JAGADISH JAIN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to streamline the recruitment procedures in Army, Air Force and Navy; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Recruitment procedures are reviewed and improved from time to time. Some of the important steps taken to streamline the recruitment procedures in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force are:—

(i) An application system for recruitment has been introduced for entry as other Ranks. Under this system, a candidate has to apply directly to the concerned Zonal Recruitment Office (ZRO) where the applications are shortlisted or the basis of the number of vacancies, age, educational qualifications, physical standards, NCC certificates, etc. Candidates thus shortlisted are issued call-up letters directly by the ZRO to appear for screening at a given venue on a specified date and time, near their places of residence.

(ii) Common tests are conducted on a fixed date all over the country for selection of Other Ranks.

(iii) Applications once submitted by candidates will remain valid till they become over-age for recruitment, so that they do not have to apply repeatedly.

(iv) Screening of candidates is carried out by a Board of Officers with 2 independent members from the local formation/unit.

(v) In order to minimise malpractices in medical examination at the time of recruitment, a system of independent checks by a second medical officer has been instituted. Provision has also been made for appeals against the verdict of the Recruiting Medical Officer.

(vi) Prompt action is taken against touts/agents with the assistance of Civil Police/CBI/Army Liasion Unit.

(vii) Minimum acceptable percentage of marks in matriculation/other Examinations for shortlisted applications will be displayed so that candidates know their position. The merit list of selected candidates, once prepared, will also be displayed for public information. Candidates who are finally selected but do not report for enrolment will be sent Registered letters as final call for enrolment before utilising their vacancies for the candidates next in the merit list.

(viii) Procedure for issue of sponsorship forms for recruitment of Sailors in the Navy has been streamlined and work of the staff dealing with this job is supervised closely.

(ix) The Examination Office for recruitment in the Navy has been centralised at New Delhi for setting, printing and distribution of question papers to the ZRO/ BROs through couriers.

(x) Computerisation in the process of recruitment in the Air Force is being progressively increased.

Ration to aircrews

711. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that aircrews while on duty on board aircrafts are not given ration on par with the officers/ flying crews; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to issue necessary instruction to give ration to the aircrews as well?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Aircrew while on duty on board are not given any rations. They are however given pre-flight meals. There is no disparity between the scale of rations authorised for officers and other aircrew, as pre-flight meals.

(b) There is no proposal to give any other ration to any category of the aircrew on board, over and above what is presently authorised.

712. [*Transferred to the 3rd December, 1991*]

Intrusion made by Pakistani forest in Kupwara District of Jammu and Kashmir

713. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major intrusion bid was made by Pakistani forces on the 19th September, 1991 in Kupwara District in Jammu and Kashmir border;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that similar intrusion bid was made in August, 1990; and

(d) what military and diplomatic action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Indian troops maintain a constant vigil and take adequate action to repel any intrusions by Pakistani forces into Indian territory. It would not be desirable to disclose further details in the interest of security.

(d) The Directors General of Military Operations of India and Pakistan have been in periodic touch with each other and the necessity to deescalate the situation has been emphasized by both sides, from time to time. In October, 91, an understanding was arrived at between the two Directors General of Military Operations not to use heavy calibre weapons. The Government also keen a close watch on development in the border areas having a bearing on national security and take adequate measures to ensure full defence prejaredness at all times.

Recruitment of women in Naval Service

714. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to recruit women in the Naval services for the first time;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating (i) the method of recruitment and (ii) the precise areas of naval services for which they are proposed to be recruited; and

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Government have recently approved a proposal for, the induction of women into the Logistics, Law and the Education Branches of the Indian Navy. Details regarding the recruitment are being worked out.